

## **NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES**

### **Summary of NEH Fiscal Year 2001 Appropriation Request**

The National Endowment for the Humanities and the Administration request an appropriation totaling \$150 million for NEH for fiscal year 2001:

- \$107.77 million for the Endowment's grant programs in support of high quality education, research, preservation, and public programming in the humanities and for the projects and programs of the 56 state humanities councils;
- \$12.53 million for the NEH Challenge Grants program to stimulate and match private, nonfederal donations in support of humanities institutions and organizations;
- \$4 million in special Challenge funds to support the establishment of Regional Humanities Centers around the country;
- \$4 million to stimulate and match nonfederal contributions to humanities projects supported by the Endowment; and
- \$21.7 million for administrative expenses necessary to operate the agency.

[Note: For a breakdown of specific funding allocations requested for the agency's grant divisions and offices, see page 16.]

### **Overview**

In the 1965 legislation that established the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Congress of the United States declared that "encouragement and support of national progress . . . in the humanities . . . , while primarily a matter of private and local initiative, is also an appropriate matter of concern to the Federal Government." Acknowledging the federal government's interest in "promoting progress in the humanities," the 89<sup>th</sup> Congress expressed this interest in a single, powerful observation: "Democracy demands wisdom and vision in its citizens." NEH has worked conscientiously for nearly three and a half decades to fulfill this broad mandate. By supporting high quality projects and programs in the humanities, the Endowment helps Americans develop "wisdom and vision" by expanding their knowledge of human history, thought, and culture.

On September 29, 2000, NEH will observe its thirty-fifth anniversary, just two days before the start of fiscal year 2001. On the occasion of this anniversary, how fitting it would be for the 106<sup>th</sup> Congress to honor the foresight of its predecessors by providing a budget for the Endowment that would enable the agency to implement a vigorous and

innovative array of humanities programs for the American people. A budget of \$150 million for NEH in FY 2001 would significantly enrich the cultural and intellectual life of the nation by:

- improving the quality of humanities education offered to American schoolchildren and college students;
- providing opportunities for citizens to engage in a lifetime of learning about the nation's history and culture and the history and culture of other areas of the world;
- preserving and democratizing Americans' access to millions of brittle books, pages of historical newspapers, objects of material culture, and other important cultural and intellectual resources in the humanities;
- restoring the agency's leadership position in humanities research and scholarship and creating new opportunities for scholars to advance our knowledge and understanding of the people, ideas, and events that make up the record of civilization;
- extending the reach of the agency's programs and grant opportunities more widely throughout the country, especially to those regions and among those groups and communities that have been underserved by our national programs;
- strengthening and broadening the programs of the 56 state humanities councils; and
- enhancing the ability of the nation's cultural and educational institutions to raise nonfederal support for their humanities activities and operations.

Building on our nearly thirty-five years of experience in supporting high quality humanities projects, the FY 2001 NEH budget request would help to restore the agency's leadership role in advancing the humanities across the nation. This budget offers a carefully balanced plan that will provide vital funding to the agency's core grant programs and establish fresh, new grant opportunities and program emphases that would dramatically increase the Endowment's reach.

### **Rediscovering America**

The centerpiece of the FY 2001 NEH budget request is a multi-faceted, agency-wide initiative, *Rediscovering America*, that encourages Americans to discover anew the nation's history and culture and preserve its rich heritage for the benefit of future generations. Through this initiative, NEH is expanding its core educational mission in an effort to advance knowledge and understanding of the humanities for *all* Americans.

At the heart of *Rediscovering America* is a series of initiatives that focus on the culture and heritage of regional America. The United States has always been a country of regions—places defined by myth and history; by landscape and natural resources; by language, art, music, and poetry; and by architectural and engineering marvels. Through this initiative, the Endowment will help each American learn what it means to live in a region, to consider how their worlds shape people who enter it from other places, and to imagine how that culture is changed as new people enter.

A special focus of the *Rediscovering America* initiative is our recently launched grant competition to establish Regional Humanities Centers throughout the country. Under this special competition, NEH will fund the creation of regional humanities centers where American traditions, cultures, and aspirations can be explored in the context of place. At each center, a wide array of activities will use the humanities to explore the region's distinctive culture. Each center will thus serve as a cultural hub for its region.

In the initial phase of the Regional Humanities Centers competition, which took place in the fall of 1999 and is using \$1 million in funds that NEH has raised from the nonfederal sector, 16 planning grants were awarded in seven U. S. regions. It is anticipated that four additional planning grants in three regions will be awarded in July 2000. Recipients of these planning grants will then be eligible to apply for implementation awards in the second part of the competition. For FY 2001, NEH requests \$4 million in special matching funds to support successful implementation projects selected during this second phase. The remaining \$6 million needed to fund the start-up year of these centers will be raised privately.

In addition to the Regional Humanities Centers program, other special *Rediscovering America* efforts planned for FY 2001 include:

- *Extending the Reach* initiative: In FY 2000, NEH began a series of new outreach programs, collectively called *Extending the Reach*, to encourage underserved institutions, communities, and areas across the nation to participate more fully in Endowment programs and activities. The initiative consists of three categories of grants: (1) grants in states that have either received relatively few awards from NEH in recent years or have a low ranking in terms of per capita NEH funding; (2) grants to special types of institutions identified in government-wide Presidential Executive Orders concerning historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges; and (3) new and/or enhanced grant efforts in our core program divisions and offices that target underserved geographic areas, institutions, and populations. This new, ambitious outreach initiative will be continued and enhanced in FY 2001.
- Sound recordings preservation initiative: The Endowment requests \$1 million in additional funds for FY 2001 to begin a new initiative to preserve endangered sound recordings. Through this initiative, we will expand our capacity to preserve and provide access to recorded sound collections, with

special emphasis on such traditional music forms as folk, jazz, and blues. Grants would enable institutions to reformat their deteriorating collections onto more stable media and to make their holdings widely known through the creation of catalog records that would be entered into national bibliographical networks. This effort responds directly to guidance provided by the FY 2000 House Conference Report (106-406): "The managers are concerned that much of the musical heritage of the nation —as represented by early sound recordings—is irrevocably lost with each passing year. Consequently, the managers strongly encourage the National Endowment for the Humanities to strengthen and expand its support of efforts to preserve the rich and important heritage of early sound recordings." This initiative would build on the experience and success of NEH's major long-term program for the preservation of brittle books, which was undertaken at the request of Congress in FY 1989.

- Folklore initiative: Although the Endowment annually supports a small number of folklore-related projects, this field generally does not receive as much attention and support as many other humanities fields. In FY 2001, we therefore request \$1 million in additional funds to begin a new effort to encourage and support projects on folklore that will interpret the meaning and significance of the traditional customs and art forms of peoples and cultures. This initiative will occupy a central place in our *Rediscovering America* initiative and will complement other programs such as Regional Humanities Centers, the sound recordings preservation initiative, and NEH's My History is America's History initiative.
- An NEH-designed and sponsored project—My History is America's History—is encouraging Americans of all ages to learn more about their family's history and to place it in the context of the broad sweep of American and world history. The project, which consists of a printed guidebook and an interactive Web site, was launched last fall during the Thanksgiving holiday period. It is now helping Americans to place their family's stories on the Internet and in doing so to explore American history and the history and culture of the places in which their ancestors lived. My History is America's History is being complemented by an Endowment-wide focus on projects that relate to family history and to regional history and culture.
- Digitization of collections initiative: The Endowment requests funding to launch a new program in its Preservation and Access division that would enhance access to materials important to the nation's heritage. The program would provide grants to museums, libraries, archives, and historical sites to enable them to digitize their major humanities collections. This effort will emphasize collections that are pertinent to the study of America's regional history and culture and will bring online tens of thousands of digital images of manuscripts, maps, photographs, artifacts, and other resource materials that are important for understanding the nation's history and culture.

- In the NEH Challenge Grants program, a special initiative for local history is planned for FY 2001 that would encourage small institutions to strengthen their humanities resources in local history and to raise donations from nonfederal sources.

Other key ingredients of NEH's FY 2001 budget plan that will advance the humanities throughout the United States include:

- A significant increase in the number of opportunities for the nation's school and college teachers to attend NEH-supported humanities seminars and institutes, and the establishment of new, related grant programs that would help seminar and institute participants disseminate the results of their work to other teachers and schools;
- Increased support for high quality television and radio programs, museum exhibitions, and library reading and discussion programs that will help Americans engage in a lifetime of learning;
- Increased support for NEH's flagship humanities research programs and the creation of new grant opportunities for the nation's scholars through a three-year Archaeological Research initiative and the establishment of a new program of Travel to Research Sites grants; and
- A significant increase in funding for the NEH Challenge Grants program, allowing for the implementation of new opportunities for small and medium size institutions to improve their humanities programming through long-range institutional planning.

NEH's work in FY 2001 will be complemented and supplemented by the local programming of the 56 state humanities councils, all of which would receive significant funding increases at our request level. Collectively, the efforts of the Endowment and the state councils at the FY 2001 request level would bring the benefits of the humanities to millions of Americans across the country.

### **Context of the Budget Request**

After several years of appropriations at about the \$110 million level, for FY 2000 Congress provided a modest budget increase—to \$115.26 million—for NEH. This increase affirms the Endowment's national importance and acknowledges the agency's hard work in bringing the humanities to the nation's citizens. It also illustrates the bipartisan support NEH enjoys in both the House and the Senate.

The FY 2000 funding increase has provided a small measure of relief to our chronically underfunded core programs and has enabled us to take the first steps in launching a number of new initiatives for the American people. The Endowment and the

Administration now ask Congress to build on this momentum by making a more significant investment in NEH for FY 2001—to \$150 million—that would allow the agency to implement these new efforts and to extend the impact and reach of the agency's ongoing programs.

Although the FY 2001 NEH request of \$150 million represents a 30 percent increase over our current funding level, this amount is still well below the \$172 million budget the agency had at its disposal in FY 1995. Indeed, the 36 percent reduction in funding that NEH sustained in FY 1996—a reduction significantly larger than virtually every other federal agency—forced us to close down many effective grant programs, to lay off a quarter of our employees, and to downsize and reorganize our administrative functions. Since 1996, the number of grants NEH has been able to award to humanities scholars, educators, institutions, and organizations has diminished correspondingly. This has resulted in a serious decline in the availability of humanities programs for the American people and has eroded the humanities infrastructure the Endowment worked hard to build over the last three and a half decades.

The effects of the FY 1996 reduction and subsequent series of level budgets have been profound—

- At present, we are only able to support about one-third the number of summer seminars and institutes for teachers that we supported before the budget cuts. In effect, 1,600 humanities teachers each year are now denied the intellectual rejuvenation that could be gained from participating in these widely acclaimed professional development programs. But the ultimate losers are the approximately 240,000 students who could have been reached by these teachers;
- Endowment-supported films and museum exhibitions available to the public in 1999 fell to 23 hours of television and 19 museum exhibitions at 66 venues, down significantly from the 71 television-hours and 36 museum exhibitions at 200 venues that were available to our citizens in the mid-1990s. This means that the cumulative audience for quality humanities programming fell by approximately 70 million viewers and that nearly four million people did not have the opportunity to engage in lifelong learning by visiting educational presentations in museums and historical organizations;
- Approximately 15,000-20,000 fewer brittle books, as well as more than 200,000 fewer pages of U. S. newspapers, are being preserved on microfilm each year, thus slowing the Endowment's efforts to preserve and increase access to these important intellectual resources; and
- The Endowment's ability to support research and scholarship projects, such as the preparation of documentary editions of the papers of historically important Americans, has fallen precipitously.

The proposed FY 2001 budget would enable NEH to reverse these trends by bolstering support for classroom teaching, public television programming and museum exhibitions, research and scholarship, and preservation efforts for Americans of all ages and walks of life. The \$150 million we are requesting will help the Endowment regain a portion of the funding it lost in FY 1996, while also instituting new grant activities that would re-invigorate federal support of the humanities for the American people.

NEH continues to enjoy the strong support of Congress, the Administration, and the American people. Following its lead of last year, we urge Congress to demonstrate its continuing commitment to the cultural and educational well-being of the nation by honoring our request for additional funds and endorsing our dynamic FY 2001 budget and program plan. At the opening of the new century, this is a propitious time to make a wise investment of \$150 million in public funds that will yield important dividends for the nation.

### **Forging Partnerships with Other Institutions and Organizations**

The Endowment is committed to developing viable partnerships, whenever possible, with other institutions and organizations to advance the humanities. The NEH Office of Enterprise serves as the focal point for the agency's many efforts in this area. Through this office, we seek to build partnerships and to supplement the federal funds Congress provides to the agency. The office's recent successes in forging partnerships and raising nonfederal funds for the humanities include:

- helping to raise \$1 million in nonfederal funds for grants that the Endowment is awarding during the planning phase of the Regional Humanities Centers initiative;
- securing grants from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in New Jersey for two new pilot education programs for New Jersey teachers: Humanities Teacher Leadership grants and Humanities Scholars in Residence grants. The Endowment requests FY 2001 funds to expand these programs to teachers in the rest of the nation;
- facilitating the Endowment's partnership with MCI WorldCom and the Council of the Great City Schools to create and promote the EDSITEment Web site, one of the nation's premier Internet resource for humanities education; and
- helping to establish the agency's Schools for a New Millennium program, which is encouraging schools and teachers to become more proficient in using new electronic materials to teach the humanities.

In FY 2000 and FY 2001, the Enterprise Office will continue to play a critical role in developing the Endowment's *Rediscovering America* initiative, particularly the Regional Humanities Centers and the My History is America's History project. The

office will also take the lead in forging partnerships with other federal agencies—such as the Department of Education and the National Science Foundation—as well as with nonfederal institutions and organizations. These partnerships, which will support a variety of FY 2001 initiatives and emphases, represent important opportunities to broaden the reach of the humanities in significant and enduring ways.

While we will continue to seek new partnerships and new sources of funding, particularly funding from the private sector, we hasten to point out that such funding could never serve as more than a small complement to federal support for the humanities. Studies show that the private sector could not and would not fill the financial void if NEH's federal funding were to decline significantly or cease altogether. This reality dramatizes the need for a continuing federal role and underscores why the nation is wise to maintain a vigorous federal presence in the cultural life of America.

In an effort to bring into greater focus the Endowment's wide-ranging initiatives and emphases, NEH Chairman Bill Ferris also has recently established a number of agency-wide working groups organized around broad thematic areas. These working groups—"Regional America," "Teaching and Lifelong Learning," "Humanities, Science, and Technology," and "Humanities in an International Context"—are in the process of developing reports that document what the agency has done in these areas in the past, what we are now doing, and what new avenues could be pursued in the future. A number of the working groups' preliminary recommendations for new initiatives and partnerships have been integrated into this FY 2001 budget request. In addition, we have reserved a small amount of FY 2000 program funding to help support programming initiatives that have emerged from the early work of these groups. A modest amount of funding is similarly proposed for FY 2001 to help implement these recommendations.

### **Thinking Strategically and Planning for Results**

#### *Strategic Planning*

NEH's interest in developing new ways of promoting the humanities and in finding new partners to share in this endeavor is a reflection of our continuing effort to be more strategic in our activities and operations. To this end, we have put in place a multi-year strategic plan that is serving as an effective blueprint for agency programs and operations. The plan identifies long-term goals and objectives and outlines various strategies to achieve those goals and objectives. This plan was developed in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993. We have also re-organized the agency's former Office of Planning and Budget into a newly focused Office of Strategic Planning. The function of this new office is to inform the Endowment's planning activities, particularly those relating to policies, operations, and programs. Decisions on agency-wide initiatives and priorities will thus be made with full understanding of their contexts, interactions, and effects. One of the office's chief responsibilities is to develop and coordinate strategic and performance planning.



For the past two years the Endowment has also developed annual performance plans that set forth goals and indicators at the level of funds requested each year. NEH's performance plan for FY 2001, which is keyed to the \$150 million request and covers each program and grant activity proposed in the budget, was included as part of the agency's formal budget request to Congress.

### *Data Collection and Analysis*

The Endowment's interest in thinking strategically is also reflected in our plans to increase significantly our data collection and analysis activities at the FY 2001 request level. (Data collection activities are supported through the Planning and Assessment Studies program located in the Office of Strategic Planning and funded out of the agency's Administrative budget.) For many years, the Endowment's ability to support national data collection projects and evaluative studies in the humanities has been severely limited, due primarily to the agency's deep funding reduction of FY 1996 and the subsequent series of level budgets. In FY 2001, the Endowment proposes to continue the effort that we are beginning in FY 2000 to rebuild our capacity to collect, analyze, and disseminate information on conditions in the humanities. At the request level, for example, renewed efforts will be made to collect vital information about humanities Ph.D.s (the core of the humanities labor force) and humanities institutions. We believe that the budget and program planning process at NEH would be better informed by a more systematic effort to collect and analyze a wide range of data on the humanities. Reflecting our renewed commitment to this important area of the agency's work, our FY 2001 budget proposes a four-fold increase—to \$400,000—in Administrative funds in support of the Planning and Assessment Studies program.

### **Summary of FY 2001 Budget Request by Key Strategic Objectives**

Strategic planning has proven to be a valuable tool for helping the Endowment to envision its future and to identify ways it can better serve the American people. The two long-term strategic goals the agency has set for itself in the plan—to advance knowledge and understanding in the humanities in the United States and to broaden public awareness of, access to, and participation in the humanities—serve as touchstones for all of our programming, policies, and operations. Indeed, the FY 2001 NEH budget is integrally tied to key programmatic objectives of our strategic plan, as highlighted below.

#### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: Strengthen teaching and learning in the humanities in schools and colleges across the nation**

The Endowment's FY 2001 budget request would significantly enhance the agency's and the Administration's ability to improve the quality of humanities education in the nation's schools and colleges. Funding would be provided to rebuild the Endowment's core education programs, which were decimated by the FY 1996 budget cuts, and to implement a number of new grant opportunities that would extend the reach and impact of humanities programs across the country. NEH's education grants have a long-term impact because they concentrate on teachers, particularly those who teach the

K-12 grades. The ultimate beneficiaries of such projects are the hundreds of thousands of American students—in rural, inner-city, and other classrooms, as well as in colleges and universities—who annually are taught by these teachers.

The Endowment's education programming in FY 2001 will continue to emphasize innovative projects that make use of electronic technologies to teach history, literature, languages, and other humanities subject areas. The Endowment has been very active in recent years on this front. In the fall of 1997, NEH joined with MCI WorldCom (then, the MCI Corporation) and the Council of the Great City Schools in establishing a new Web site, EDSITEment, to provide electronic access to the best humanities education materials on the World Wide Web. EDSITEment has attracted considerable attention among educators, students, and parents since going online. It is recording more than 56,000 user-sessions per month and has more than 600 external sites linked to it. In addition, in-service training sessions related to the site have reached more than 42,000 teachers and 700,000 students. In an effort to extend the impact of this innovative effort, more than 1,000 teachers attending NEH Summer Seminars and Institutes and the summer programs sponsored by the state humanities councils will participate directly in EDSITEment training sessions over the next two years. Another 175,000 students will be reached as a result of this effort.

In FY 1996, the Endowment launched a three-year initiative, Teaching with Technology, that helped develop high quality Web sites in a number of humanities subject areas. Building on the success of Teaching with Technology, in FY 1998 we put into place another new multi-year program emphasis—Schools for a New Millennium. The aim of this programming effort is to help jump-start the process by which American schools and their teachers become competent and comfortable with new electronic humanities materials. Based on the high quality of the planning grants we have supported in the initial rounds of this competition, we plan in FY 2000 to award a handful of implementation grants. Additional funds requested for this initiative in FY 2001 would support a fuller slate of implementation awards. This funding would allow us to demonstrate the full Millennium Schools concept without restricting support for other important NEH education activities. And, in keeping with the agency's objective of broadening the reach of its programming, FY 2001 funding is requested to begin awarding small Visitors' Awards that would enable educators from a region to consult with Millennium Schools grantees about how to improve their use of electronic humanities materials.

Increased funding in FY 2001 would also permit the Endowment to establish a grant program for Humanities Scholars in Residence. As part of the agency-wide *Extending the Reach* initiative, these small consultancy grants will be targeted at states that have received relatively small amounts of funding from the Endowment over the years and at schools that have not participated in NEH projects. Through this grant opportunity, individual schools around the nation would receive small awards to support visits by humanities scholars and master teachers. The consultant-visitors would spend two to three days at a school, develop written recommendations regarding the school's teaching of the humanities, and then serve a follow-up residency at the school. NEH has

received a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation to field-test this new program among selected New Jersey high schools in FY 2000.

The FY 2001 budget request would also allow the Endowment to provide some much-needed funding relief to NEH's program Seminars and Institutes, the acclaimed national faculty development program that helps revitalize school and college teachers' understanding of the humanities. Increased funding would make possible 62 seminars and institutes for school and college teachers, significantly higher than the 49 awards we were able to make at our FY 1999 appropriated level. The increased number of seminars and institutes would provide educational opportunities for an estimated 575 college teachers and 615 school teachers. Also, with the FY 2001 funds requested, we propose to expand the reach of seminars and institutes by providing small Humanities Teacher Leadership grants to approximately 75 participants that would allow them to disseminate the results of their seminar or institute work to other teachers and schools. In keeping with a number of the agency's other outreach efforts, these grants would be concentrated in states and regions that have not received many awards from the Endowment in the past. The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation is also helping to support this pilot grant activity among New Jersey schoolteachers in FY 2000.

The Endowment is proposing a variety of additional humanities education efforts at the FY 2001 request level. New activities would include projects involving pre-service humanities teachers, which would enable student teachers to become well versed in the subject areas they will teach. We would also implement a pilot program of awards, jointly supported in our Education and Public divisions, for content-based, after-school projects. These awards would provide appropriate NEH-funded materials—such as EDSITEment, Web-based and CD-ROM humanities projects, and documentary films—to students enrolled in after-school programs.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Provide opportunities for Americans to engage in lifelong learning in the humanities***

The great expansion of historical and cultural programs for the general public in recent decades demonstrates that Americans have a strong appetite for the knowledge and intellectual stimulation that is available through the humanities. A major objective for NEH is to provide support for high quality public programs in the humanities to meet this demand and to make learning in the humanities a lifetime endeavor.

While NEH-funded projects now annually reach millions of people of diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds, a critical goal of our strategic planning has been to broaden even further Americans' access to and participation in the humanities. To this end, the Endowment's *Extending the Reach* initiative is specifically aimed at encouraging and supporting projects and programs that have the capacity to reach Americans in towns, communities, and regions that have had relatively limited access to quality humanities programming.

In keeping with the overall strategy of our FY 2001 program plan, funds are requested both to rebuild the Endowment's time-tested core public programs and to establish new grant activities and initiatives that would extend the geographical reach of the agency's public programming efforts. In FY 1999, for example, the Endowment initiated a pilot program of Consultation grants—small grants to organizations that have not previously received an NEH grant—that enable them to collaborate with humanities scholars and experienced grantees at other institutions. This grant opportunity is being continued in FY 2000 and would be expanded significantly with FY 2001 funds. At the request level, another new grant initiative would award modest grants to small- to mid-sized museums throughout the country for the purpose of mounting a traveling version of a successful NEH-funded exhibition. We also would expand our support for reading and discussion programs for new adult readers, as well as make small grants to public libraries to enable these institutions to make use of packaged reading and discussion programs or exhibitions developed by large national organizations such as the American Library Association. Finally, building on the success of the *Girls Dig It* project—a nationwide archaeology program for adolescent girls, most of whom are from urban, low-income, and minority families—FY 2001 funding would allow us to support projects that offer humanities-rich, after-school educational programs for at-risk youth.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the state humanities councils***

An essential strategic objective of the Endowment is to maintain and strengthen our partnerships with the state humanities councils. In recent years, the recasting of our relationship with the councils into a true Federal/State Partnership has presented fresh opportunities for the National Endowment for the Humanities to work with individual humanities councils in the states to design thoughtful and stimulating programming for all the nation's citizens. As befits this special partnership, the active participation of the state humanities councils will be crucial to the success of NEH's *Rediscovering America* initiative. State councils will be involved in the planning phase of the overall initiative and will also be given special encouragement to participate in the work of the Regional Humanities Centers that NEH will be helping to establish around the country.

At NEH's FY 2001 request level, the state humanities councils would receive a dramatic boost over their current appropriated level, to \$38.32 million. With this funding, grants made by the state councils would increase by more than 30 percent, to more than 6,500 awards, and individual state councils would be able to implement bold new initiatives to engage more of their citizens with quality humanities programming.

As part of the agency's *Extending the Reach* efforts, councils in fourteen states received grants from the Endowment in FY 2000, to encourage statewide partnerships and enduring networks among humanities organizations. In FY 2001, funding for the state humanities councils would reinforce the Endowment's goal of extending its reach to more of the nation's citizens, particularly those who have not experienced or participated in quality humanities projects. FY 2001-requested funding would allow the councils to develop partnerships with statewide organizations such as library systems, historical

societies, archives, museums, and state centers for the book. At the request level, the state councils also will be able to implement new initiatives that help build the capacity of local institutions to conduct humanities programs and services.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Preserve and increase the availability of cultural and intellectual resources essential for the American people***

The FY 2001 request would enable the Endowment to make great strides toward achieving one of its key strategic objectives, as well as a major goal of the *Rediscovering America* initiative: to preserve and to make more accessible resource materials important to the nation's cultural heritage. The heart of the agency's preservation effort in FY 2001 will continue to be the support we provide for major projects to microfilm brittle books, U.S. newspapers, journals, documents, and other materials held by the nation's libraries, archives, and other cultural and educational institutions that would otherwise be lost. Another high priority will be our continued support for the National Heritage Preservation program, which is helping institutions maintain and stabilize their fragile material culture collections. Many of these objects are now inadequately housed and frequently inaccessible to scholars, curators, students, and the general public.

The FY 2001 request level would also permit a number of new preservation and access initiatives that would significantly broaden the scope of humanities materials and resources available to the American people. Among the program emphases we would implement or expand in FY 2001 include: a major initiative to digitize historically significant collections held by museums, libraries, historical organizations, and archives; a new sound recordings initiative to preserve and provide access to recorded sound collections, with special emphasis on folk, jazz, and blues; and additional awards as part of a recently initiated *Extending the Reach* category of "preservation assistance" grants to small libraries, museums, and other institutions to support staff attendance at preservation training sessions, to fund on-site consultations by preservation experts, or to purchase preservation supplies and equipment. In FY 2001, NEH would explore the ways in which the Endowment could continue its partnership efforts with the National Science Foundation in support of a variety of digital research and development projects. In the first round of NEH's current partnership with NSF in FY 1999, the Endowment invested \$1 million in six projects of importance to the humanities, with NSF contributing another \$9 million to these same projects.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Facilitate basic research and original scholarship in the humanities***

The support of advanced research and scholarship that broadens our knowledge and understanding of the humanities would be greatly enhanced at the agency's requested FY 2001 budget level. Among the many programmatic emphases planned in this area, perhaps none is more critical than restoring and strengthening our core programs and rebuilding our national leadership in humanities scholarship. The Endowment also proposes to begin to increase gradually the maximum stipend amounts of our fellowship and stipend awards to bring them more in line with today's academic salaries and with

awards offered by other funding institutions. In the first step of this process, awards in FY 2001 would increase from \$30,000 to \$35,000 for fellowships and from \$4,000 to \$4,500 for summer stipends. The increases are necessary to account for inflation in the decade since award amounts were last raised. These programs would thus become more enticing for today's foremost humanities scholars.

The Endowment also requests funds for FY 2001 to re-establish a version of our former program, Travel to Collections, which was discontinued in the early 1990's due to funding pressures in the agency. Under the new, reconstituted program—Travel to Research Sites—scholars would receive \$1,500 stipends to defray some of the cost of traveling to research libraries and archives, both at home and abroad, to consult important humanities primary resource materials. This re-invented program would particularly encourage junior-level and independent scholars to conduct research at under-utilized and/or newly opened archives.

FY 2001 funds are also requested to permit the Endowment to launch a three-year Special Opportunity for Archaeological Research. This is a critical undertaking: NEH support for important archaeological fieldwork and research has diminished considerably since the downsizing of the agency in FY 1996. A new special initiative would allow us to support a range of synthetic and comparative archaeological studies important to the humanities and to encourage archaeologists to make the results of their work more widely available electronically and via other media.

As part of the Endowment's *Extending the Reach* initiative, the Research division in FY 2000 also will be implementing a new program in support of humanities research by faculty employed at historically black, Hispanic-serving, and tribal colleges and universities. This effort will be continued and enhanced in FY 2001.

**STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: *Strengthen the institutional base of the humanities***

The Endowment's FY 2001 budget request earmarks significant funding to expand our national effort to strengthen the institutional base of the humanities by leveraging nonfederal support for humanities institutions. NEH is nationally recognized as an essential agent for encouraging private giving to the humanities.

Through the NEH Challenge Grants program, the Endowment provides matching grants to institutions to raise funds for renovations, new construction, and other capital improvements; to acquire materials, collections, and equipment; and to create endowments whose income can be used to maintain, preserve, and catalog collections—all activities that ultimately contribute to substantive humanities programming. Because grantees are required to raise at least three times the amount of the federal award, challenge grants are an effective means of stimulating nonfederal contributions to humanities institutions.

Increased funding for the NEH Challenge Grants program in FY 2001 would restore the program's regular awards to a more viable level. In recent years, the

decreased NEH budgets have meant that many worthy Challenge projects either could not be supported because of lack of funds or could only be supported at greatly reduced levels.

The Endowment will extend the reach of its Challenge Grants in FY 2001 by establishing special competitions that would offer awards with lower matching requirements to smaller and traditionally underserved institutions whose impact is primarily local or regional. As part of the agency's *Rediscovering America* initiative, special competitions would be held for smaller institutions to strengthen their resources in local and regional history. Similarly, two-year colleges would receive grants to endow faculty development, public lectures, and collaborations with community groups. And, small grants would be awarded in support of humanities-focused endowments at historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and tribal colleges. Finally, an important new emphasis in the Challenge Grants program proposed at the FY 2001 request level is a program of "pre-challenge" planning grants, with a 2:1 match, that would enable small institutions to develop long-range planning.

# NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

## Summary of FY 2001 Request (in thousands of dollars)

	<b><u>FY 1999</u></b> <b><u>Approp.</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2000</u></b> <b><u>Estimate</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2001</u></b> <b><u>Request</u></b>
<b>Federal/State Partnership</b>	<b>\$28,000</b>	<b>\$29,160</b>	<b>\$38,320</b>
<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>10,748</b>	<b>11,702</b>	<b>14,300</b>
<b>Preservation and Access</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,328</b>	<b>23,400 *</b>
<b>Public Programs</b>	<b>10,909</b>	<b>11,588</b>	<b>14,150</b>
<b>Research Programs</b>	<b>10,843</b>	<b>11,547</b>	<b>14,100</b>
<b>Extending the Reach</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>Enterprise Initiatives</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Folklore Initiative</b>	<b><u>--</u></b>	<b><u>--</u></b>	<b><u>1,000</u></b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>82,723</b>	<b>107,770</b>
<b>Challenge Grants</b>	<b>9,900</b>	<b>10,259</b>	<b>12,530</b>
<b>Regional Humanities Centers</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>4,000</b>
<b>Treasury Funds</b>	<b><u>4,000</u></b>	<b><u>4,000</u></b>	<b><u>4,000</u></b>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>93,900</b>	<b>97,779</b>	<b>128,300</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b><u>16,800</u></b>	<b><u>17,481</u></b>	<b><u>21,700</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$110,700</b>	<b>\$115,260</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>

\* FY 2001 request includes \$1 million for a new Sound Recordings Preservation Initiative.